

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, NATO, GH, NL
SUBJ: ECONADS: TURNOVER IN DUTCH NATO MISSION

REF: USNATO 05287

1. REFTEL ASKED FOR BIO DATA ON JAKOB GIJSBERT DE HOOP SCHEFFERS,
FORMERLY THIRD SECRETARY AT DUTCH EMBASSY IN ACCRA AND NOW
ASSIGNED TO NATO.

2. "JAAP" SCHEFFER IS AN EXCEPTIONABLY ABLE YOUNG OFFICER WHO IS
LIKELY TO GO FAR IN HIS PROFESSION. DESPITE HIS YOUTH, HE
FREQUENTLY SERVED AS CHARGE HERE WHEN HIS AMBASSADOR WAS OUT OF
THE COUNTRY. HE IS INTELLIGENT, WELL-INFORMED, ENERGETIC AND GOT
ON WELL WITH GHANAIANS AND EXPATRIATES ALIKE. HE SPEAKS FLUENT
ENGLISH AND FRENCH. HIS WIFE, JEANNINE, TAUGHT FRENCH HERE
AND IS MORE COMFORTABLE WITH IT THAN ENGLISH, ALTHOUGH HER
ENGLISH IS QUITE PASSABLE. HER HUSBAND CAN COME ON STRONG BUT
SHE TENDS TO BE A BIT SHY. SCHEFFER IS DEVOTED TO SQUASH
AND TENNIS, SPORTS IN WHICH HE EXCELLS. HE HAD GOOD RELATIONS
WITH US AND WE COMMEND HIM TO YOU. IF HE HAS ANY FAULTS, THEY
LIE IN HIS HIGH AND WELL-FOUNDED CONFIDENCE IN HIS OWN ABILITIES
AND IN HIS SOMETIMES VISIBLE IMPATIENCE WITH LESSER MORTALS.

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3. AT ONE POINT LAST YEAR, SCHEFFER MENTIONED TO US THAT HE WAS
THINKING OF LEAVING DIPLOMACY AND GOING INTO DUTCH POLITICS
INSTEAD. IF HE DOES, HE IS LIKELY TO BE A REAL COMER, GIVEN
HIS ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO DO HARD WORK. BORN

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